

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 are pending. By this Response, claims 10 and 11 are added. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Kawabe, et al. (US 6,034,710) and Furuya, et al. (US 5,418,097). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to Kawabe in the Reply dated February 22, 2005 are hereby incorporated by reference. The Office Action alleges that Kawabe teaches each of the claimed features except for the claimed exposure level correction section. The Office Action alleges that Furuya teaches this feature absent in Kawabe and is combinable with Kawabe's teachings. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Furuya teaches a color image recording apparatus that performs reproduction of images using a magnetic drum on which a latent toner image is applied. A developing device is used to develop the image. The developing device refers to a look-up table to obtain a predetermined density for the image. This allows for the image density to be adjusted in the event the density begins to vary due to toner shortage. See columns 6-7 and column 13, lines 15-35.

The Office Action alleges that Furuya's teachings of using a look-up table to determine tone density (see column 13, lines 15-35), provides the claimed exposure level correction section and data. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The exposure level correction section of claim 1, corrects the exposure level data which has been supplied from an exposure level conversion section. The exposure level data supplied

from the exposure level conversion section is predetermined. The predetermined exposure level data is then corrected by the exposure level correction section for each element of a print head.

Furuya does not teach providing predetermined exposure level data, Furuya teaches providing only predetermined density data. Further, it is predetermined density data itself without further adjustments that are used in Furuya's methods. A correction of the data to match each element of a print head is not taught. Thus, not only does Furuya fail to teach or suggest using predetermined exposure level data, Furuya fails to teach or suggest providing a correction of any data, let alone exposure level data for each element of a print head.

Thus, Furuya fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, an exposure level correction section that corrects the exposure level data output from said exposure level conversion section using a correction factor for each element of said print head, the correction factor being based upon predetermined data stored in a correction table that correlates the exposure level for each element of said print head with an optimal exposure level, and outputting corrected exposure level data, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, in view of the above, the combination of Kawabe and Furuya fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 31, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorneys for Applicant